

—N·E·X·U·S—

Volume 1
Number 9



WHY DIDN'T YOU
TELL ME THIS WOULD
HAPPEN IF I DIDN'T
STUDY FOR
EXAMS?!?!?

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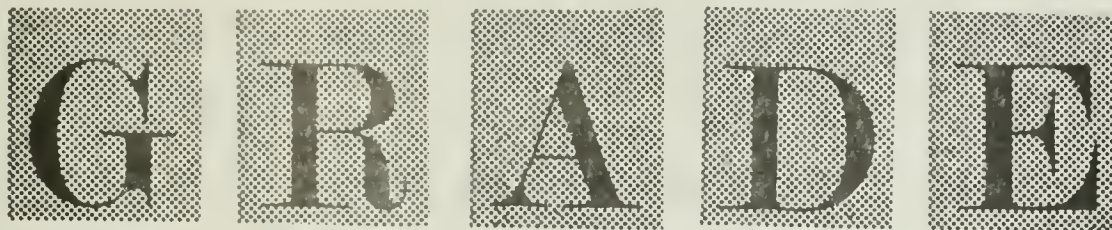
EDITORIAL

In this issue, Nexus' last in its first year of publication, we all might want to consider, albeit very briefly, the existence of the newspaper itself. To begin with, it is very important to note this little showcase of "internal talent" has had a salubrious effect on the S.H.S. community: some sort of chronicle for the highlights of the school year has been provided; the secondary school has worked together, in cooperation, to produce one product; and, most importantly, Nexus has provided a medium for members of Selwyn House to express their ideas.

Problems persist, though. For instance, many people, for a myriad of reasons, do not use the opportunities presented above (newspaper "recruitment," quite simply, has been met with limited success); consequently, the production has all too often been left to few people. Perhaps, and as corny as it may seem, the lack of communication within the community may be a primary cause of such difficulties.

All in all, the newspaper was more successful than many people initially thought it would be. We must, however, always attempt to improve Nexus. I value lucid opinions from the discerning reader and wish future contributors only the very best.

Et tu, Nexus? Then fall editor. Au revoir.



REPRESENTATIVES

THE VOICE OF GRADE EIGHT

Get set for a nostalgic ride down memory lane, as the Voice of Grade Eight reviews the highs and lows of the past school year.

HIGH: Bantam Soccer goes 10-5-1, and takes 3rd place in G.M.A.A. standings.

LOW: G.M.A.A. politics cheated them out of play-off spot.

HIGH: Bantam football finished in 3rd place.

LOW: Out of four teams.

HIGH: The Macaulay Building was completed.

LOW: Three months behind schedule.

HIGH: New facilities opened.

LOW: We aren't allowed using them without "supervision."

HIGH: Nexus started.

LOW: It didn't stop (joke, joke).

HIGH: R. Manion's portrait placed in dining hall.

LOW: Only after Nexus editorial.

HIGH: Grade eight went to Dow Planetarium.

LOW: And nowhere else.

HIGH: The voice of grade eight spoke out.

LOW: No one listened.

HIGH: Nexus received its first letter.

LOW: After six issues and three terms had elapsed.

HIGH: Someone finally sold something through Nexus classified.

LOW: It was returned.

HIGH: Ski day was a success and so was the winter carnival.

LOW: There's only one carnival a year.

HIGH: Staff beat students in basketball.

LOW: Students lost to staff in basketball.

HIGH: R. Poejo only got 4 detentions.

LOW: During the first week of school.

HIGH: The Grade Eight and Nine debating team won 'Best School' trophy at Jr. Provincials.

LOW: The Gazette made a mistake and gave it to Trafalgar.

HIGH: School is almost over.

LOW: Exams are coming up.

HIGH: Nine Nexuses were published.

LOW: This is the last one of the year.

As you can see, we at Selwyn House have experienced many highs and lows this past school year; but I am sure that you will agree that all in all this has been "one helluva year."

Sammy Sirdeshpande

The Selwyn House Players present
As You Like It

David Moroz

This year, the Selwyn House Senior Players put on Shakespeare's comedy, As You Like It. The play was the result of many hours of work done by all parts of the Selwyn House community. Despite this overwhelming participation, the play was to have its share of difficulties, particularly a number of cast players having been injured in rugby games. Despite these hindrances, the show was to go on!

The play is the story of two girls, Rosalind and Celia, who leave a French dukedom disguised as brother and sister to seek out the father of Rosalind, the lawful duke banished by the evil Duke Frederick (the father of Celia). Orlando, the son of Sir Rowland de Boys (before his death a friend of the banished duke), falls in love with Rosalind. Oliver, Orlando's once evil brother, falls in love with Rosalind's cousin and companion, Celia. In the end the two couples are married, and the banished duke regains his dukedom.

The play was a very good school production, with the effect of the comedy being brought out through a few specific characters. One is able to laugh with the confused court jester Touchstone (Jared Tobman), and at the out-dated style of love that exists throughout the play. Beyond this, Blake Ferger as the witty Jaques evokes the melancholic feeling which Shakespeare satirizes with full rolling R's and a sleepy tone.

On a less satiric side, Ian Blachford as Orlando plays the part of Orlando in a manner befitting such a noble and kind character. Rob Briscoe interprets the role of Celia with the necessary vivacity to accompany the character's wit. Similarly, as Rosalind, Christian Campeau is able to bring out the character's gaiety and humour: he also portrays Ganymede with the fitting logical and inquisitive characteristics.

The sets for the play were quite elaborate. The background, consisting of the foliage in the forest of Arden, was sketched and designed by Sywa Sung. The background was changed with the use of different slide motifs projected on a screen behind the actors. An extended stage and a wrestling ring protruded outward into the centre of the gymnasium. Live foliage covered the back of the stage, completing the setting.

On the whole, the Selwyn House production of As You Like It, directed by Dr. Harker, was very good. With imaginative sets, enthusiastic acting, and a wrestling scene which was an exciting highlight, the play proved a pure success.

"Justified" Anti-Americanism at SHS?

As Rolf Strom-Olsen has so astutely pointed out, anti-American feelings are not only widely felt but also widely manifested throughout the hallowed halls of our school. A number of his points, however, have no backing, and letting them go unanswered would be a disservice to the entire school community, not just to Grade Elevens and Nines.

In Mr. Strom-Olsen's second paragraph, he states that "Canada" has a national inferiority complex. This is an unsubstantiated personal opinion. Few Canadians exhibit such a complex. Why should the nation? True, we are smaller, relatively speaking, and true, we are not as economically and politically important as the United States. Although we take much of our culture from the United States, Canada still has its own unique culture, which differs across the country. Look at the terms applied to both countries. Canada is the "cultural mosaic," whereas the United States is the "great melting pot." As a rule, immigrants enter Canada and preserve their heritage, adding both to the social life and the cultural foundation of our country; immigrants enter the United States and lose their cultural heritage by becoming Americans. Very rarely does a foreigner enter the U.S. and become successful while preserving his cultural identity. In short, when it comes to culture and society, I don't think Canada has much to feel inferior about.

At the end of Mr. Strom-Olsen's second paragraph, the use of the expression "biting the hand that feeds you" prejudices the case of defending the U.S. In fact, Canada actually "feeds" the United States with raw materials which the United States uses to make its manufactured products. The United States, unfortunately, often attempts to exploit Canada instead of calmly doing business with her. At one point the U.S. intended to flood various valleys in B.C. in the softwood lumber deal. The list goes on and on, and it hardly endears our government or the United States to us when the Tories let in the U.S. to exploit us, and the U.S. actively, if not openly, pursues its end to make Canada dependent on the U.S., as it is not completely so yet. Fortunately, the two countries are still interdependent.

We now see that there is cause for anti-American feelings. But are they justified? Despite the fact that President Reagan has demonstrated himself to be hypocritical, "amnesiac," incompetent and unethical, as in Irangate and other affairs, is the "mania" gripping SHS students against Reagan for these reasons? In other words, do people dislike him for rational reasons? Probably not, and although

the hatred is not misplaced, as in the case of anti-Americanism at SHS, it is quite probably of the same irrational variety.

Blake Fergar
Grade Nine

ESSAYS

Presuming that Rolf Strom-Olsen's editorial was meant to be taken seriously, I felt compelled to respond to it. I was both amused and bemused when I read it. If his name had not appeared at the end of the article, I might have thought that it had been written by the John Birch Society, an arch-conservative American lobby group whose motto could be summarized as "America: love it, or leave it." Rolf seems to believe that America, in general, and President Reagan, specifically, are both above criticism.

His arguments struck me as being ingenious and illogical. For example, he accuses SHS students and Neil Riddell, in particular, of stereotyping Americans and denigrating American culture. Shortly after, in his own article, he categorizes and generalizes about Canadian nationalists. Canadian nationalists (Rolf refers to them as liberals) criticize America and then will go south to spend their money in Florida or buy American products. Also, they will probably watch American movies and television. Imagine, the temerity! Why does being a nationalist preclude appreciating something American? I subscribe to Harper's, an American magazine, because it is an excellent publication, albeit somewhat left of center. I am a Canadian nationalist, yet I can still appreciate something other than Canadiana. He needs to understand that some Canadians are able to discern the difference between American culture and the policies of the American government. Moreover, some of the criticisms levelled against the American government by 'outside' forces are the same ones some Americans themselves direct against Washington.

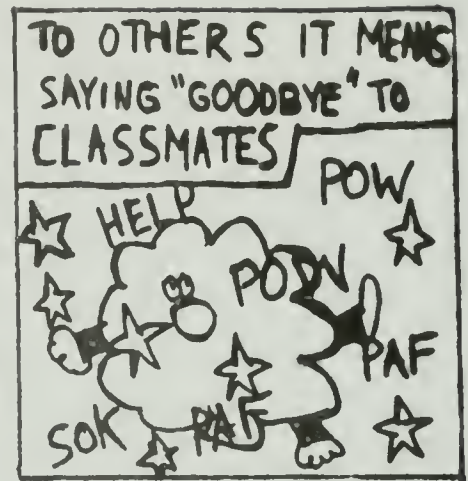
In a democratic society, everything is open to intelligent criticism, even President Reagan. It is the essence of a democracy. According to the "Tower Report," one of the problems with the Reagan Presidency was that within the inner circle there was not enough criticism of the President's policies. In addition, to state that Ronald Reagan has done more in recent history "to assure the 'Free' World's safety" is nothing short of ludicrous. What is the 'Free' World? Does it include Chile, South Korea, El Salvador and other fascist regimes that the Americans support? Is it fundamental to democratic ideals to support groups like the Contras who attempt to destabilize and overthrow 'enemy' states? The original premise of the Truman Doctrine was to help any country whose liberty and freedom were threatened by tyranny, left or right. Worse still is the fact that the majority of the Contras are made up of former members of Somoza's National Guard, the most anti-democratic and ruthless element in his former fascist regime. Besides, from whom has Reagan saved us? Could it be that those nasty Sandinistas really are planning to creep up through Central America, spreading revolution, to invade the U.S.? Maybe he saved us from Maurice Bishop's Grenadian socialists?! It must have been from the 'Mad Dog' Khadaffy! Possibly any of the aforementioned were capable of enslaving the 'Free' World! To mention Ronald Reagan in the same breath as Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, two men who really did something in recent history to save the world, would be preposterous. Perhaps, like the President, Rolf has been watching

too many late night re-runs of Ronnie's "B" war movies. Like Hollywood, President Reagan is a lot of glitz and very little substance. And to think that short-sightedness is unique to Canadian liberals!

Tom Nicoll

P.S. I have never been to Florida.

THE END OF
SCHOOL IS NEAR,
AND THAT MEANS
DIFFERENT
THINGS TO PEOPLE
TO SOME:



OR TRIPS TO SUCH EX-
CITING PLACES AS
EX-OTIC AND THRILLING
AS VERMONT

